

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

REQUEST FOR FILING CONTINUATION/DIVISIONAL
APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)

Box PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is a request for filing a ☐ continuation ☒ divisional application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of pending Application No. 09/012,790 filed on January 23, 1998, for SEMICONDUCTOR LIGHT EMITTING DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF, by the following named inventor(s):

- (a) Full Name Yukio SHAKUDA
(b) Full Name _____
(c) Full Name _____

- ☒ The entire disclosure of the prior application from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied herewith is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
- ☐ This application is being filed by less than all the inventors named in the prior application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2), the Commissioner is requested to delete the name(s) of the following person or persons who are not inventors of the invention being claimed in this application.

- (a) Full Name _____
(b) Full Name _____
(c) Full Name _____

- ☐ This application is being filed by more than all the inventors named in the prior application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2), the Commissioner is requested to add the name(s) of the following person or persons who are inventors of the invention being claimed in this application.



21839

(2/00)

Request for Filing Continuation/Divisional Application
of Application No. 09/012,790
Attorney's Docket No. 033022-004

Page 2

- (a) Full Name _____
(b) Full Name _____
(c) Full Name _____

1. ☒ Enclosed is a copy of the prior Application No. 09/012,790, as originally filed on January 23, 1998, including copies of the specification, claims, drawings and the executed oath or declaration as filed.
2. ☐ Enclosed is a revised prior application and a copy of the prior executed oath or declaration as filed. No new matter has been added to the revised application.
3. ☐ _____ statement(s) claiming small entity status ☐ are enclosed ☐ were filed in prior Application No. __, filed on __.
4. ☒ The filing fee is calculated below ☒ and in accordance with the enclosed preliminary amendment:

CLAIMS					
	NO. OF CLAIMS		EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	FEE
Basic Application Fee					\$690.00 (101)
Total Claims	9	MINUS 20 =	0	x \$18.00 (103) =	
Independent Claims	1	MINUS 3 =	0	x \$78.00 (102) =	
If multiple dependent claims are presented, add \$260.00 (104)					
Total Application Fee					690.00
If small entity status is claimed, subtract 50% of Total Application Fee					
Add Assignment Recording Fee of if Assignment document is enclosed					
TOTAL APPLICATION FEE DUE					690.00


5. ☐ Charge \$ _____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.
6. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 690.00 is enclosed for the fee due.

- 09604037-056700
7. [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.
8. [X] Cancel in this application original claims 1-12 of the prior application before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)
9. [X] Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence: --This application is a [] continuation, [X] divisional, of Application No. 09/012,790, filed January 23, 1998, which is a divisional application No. 08/528,308 filed September 14, 1995, now U.S. Patent o. 5,751,752.--
10. [] Transfer the drawings from the pending prior application to this application and abandon said prior application as of the filing date accorded this application. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for filing in the prior application file. (May only be used if signed by person authorized under 37 C.F.R. § 1.138 and before payment of issue fee.)
11. [X] New drawings are enclosed.
12. [X] Priority of Application Nos. 6-219892 filed on September 14, 1994, 6-233179 filed on September 28, 1994, 6-233180 filed on September 28, 1994, 6-235013 filed on September 29, 1994, and 6-235014 filed on September 29, 1994 in Japan (country) are claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119.
- [X] The certified copy of the priority application
- [] is enclosed
- [X] was filed on September 14, 1995 in prior Application No. 08/528,308, and was acknowledged in the Office Action dated June 20, 1996 (Paper No. 4).
- [] has not yet been filed.
13. [X] A preliminary amendment is enclosed.
14. [X] An Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed.
15. [] A General Authorization for Payment of Fees and Petitions for Extensions of Time is enclosed.
16. [] Also enclosed _.
17. [X] The power of attorney in the prior application is to Ellen Marcie Emas.
- a. [X] The power appears in the original papers in the prior application.
- b. [] Since the power does not appear in the original papers, a copy of the power in the prior application is enclosed.
- c. [] Recognize as Associate Attorney _.

- d. ☒ Address all future communications to: (May only be completed by applicant, or attorney or agent of record.)

Ellen Marcie Emas
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404

Date: June 27, 2000
Date

By: 
Ellen Marcie Emas
Registration No. 32,131

ADDRESS OF
SIGNATOR:

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

☐ inventor(s)
☐ assignee of complete interest
☒ attorney or agent of record
☐ filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.34(a)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
)
Yukio SHAKUDA) Group Art Unit: 2874 (Expected)
)
Application No.: Not Assigned) Examiner: B. Cushwa (Expected)
)
Filed: June 27, 2000)
)
For: SEMICONDUCTOR LIGHT)
EMITTING DEVICE AND)
MANUFACTURING METHOD)
THEREOF)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing in the
above-identified application. Please amend the above-noted application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please cancel the current abstract and add a new abstract as follows:

--A semiconductor light emitting device of double hetero junction includes an active
layer and clad layers. The clad layers include an n-type layer and p-type layer. The clad
layers sandwich the active layer. A band gap energy of the clad layers is larger than that
of the active layer. The band gap energy of the n-type clad layer is smaller than of the
p-type clad layer.--

03604097.002700

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Before line 1, insert "This application is a divisional application of Serial
No. 09/012,790 filed January 23, 1998."

Page 2, line 8, change "polycrystalline" to --polycrystalline--.

Page 7, line 34, before "and" insert --or efficiency--.

Page 9, line 10, delete "the rate of".

Page 10, line 33, delete "other portion which is";
line 34, delete "to be".

Page 11, line 34, delete "the surface level to";
line 35, delete "occur and the difficulty of".

Page 12, line 18, change "odoxidized" to --oxidized--.

Page 13, line 28, change " $0 < c < 1$," to " $-0 < e < 1$,--"; change " $0 < d + c < 1$,"
to " $-0 < d + e < 1$,--";

line 33, delete ", so that the";

line 34, delete "combination is easily cut".

Page 18, lines 3 and 27, change "14" to --4--;

line 11, change "16" to --6--;

line 12, change " μ " (both occurrences) to --<--;

line 28, change "16" (both occurrences) to --6--; change "14" to
--4--.

Page 19, lines 31 and 32, change "14" to -- 4--;

line 34, change "cald" to --clad--; change "16" to --6--.

002290 7609980
08604097 086700

Page 21, line 2, change "degree" to --amount--; delete "makes";
line 3, before "smaller" insert --is--;
line 5, change "degree" to --amount--.

Page 22, lines 3, 11, 13, and 21, change "14" to --4--;
lines 16 and 35, change "16" to --6--.

Page 23, line 2, change "14" to --4--;
line 13, change "16" to --6--.

Page 24, line 16, delete "(the ratio of A_l is larger than that of t)";
line 32, change "27" to --7--.

Page 26, line 23, before "has" insert --and--.

Page 30, line 32, change "laeyr" to --layer--.

Page 33, lines 3 and 6, delete "12".

Page 41, line 33, change "cut" to --split--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12, without prejudice.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing of the above-identified application. In particular, the continuing information has been added to the application. In addition, claims 1-12, drawn to another embodiment, have been cancelled without prejudice.

09604097.062700

Concurrently filed with this Preliminary Amendment is an Information Disclosure Statement citing all the references cited in the parent application and reporting an unpublished analysis report dated April 25, 1994 of a LED manufactured by Nichia Chemical Industries.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contacts, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 

Ellen Marcie Emas

Registration No. 32,131

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: June 27, 2000

03604097.052700

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A semiconductor light emitting device of double hetero junction includes an active layer and clad layers. The clad layers include an n-type layer and p-type layer. The clad layers sandwich the active layer. A band gap energy of the clad layers is larger than that of the active layer. The band gap energy of the n-type clad layer is smaller than of the p-type clad layer.

033022-004

00004007.00000000

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, YUKIO SHAKUDA residing at
c/o ROHM CO., LTD., 21, Saiin Mizosaki-cho, Ukyo-ku,
Kyoto-shi, Japan, a subject of Japan, have invented
certain new and useful improvements in

SEMICONDUCTOR LIGHT EMITTING DEVICE
AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREFOR

of which the following is a specification:-

SEMICONDUCTOR LIGHT EMITTING DEVICE
AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREFOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a semiconductor laser having a double heterodyne structure. More particularly, the invention relates to a semiconductor laser which uses
5 a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound suitable for emission of blue light, which is capable of reducing operating voltage without reducing the light emitting efficiency.

In the past, blue LED had a fault in putting it
10 to practical use because it has lower luminance than a red LED or a green LED, but in recent years the luminance of the blue LED has increased and is in the spotlight now as a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound has been in use, making it possible to obtain in p-type
15 semiconductor layer of a low resistance containing Mg as a dopant.

The semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound described here is referred to a semiconductor in which a compound of Ga of group III element and N of
20 group V element or part of Ga of group III element is substituted by other group III element such as Al and In and/or a semiconductor in which part of N of group V element is substituted by other group V element such as P and As.

In a conventional manufacturing method, gallium nitride type LEDs were manufactured in such processes as described below, and a perspective view of LED which uses a semiconductor of completed gallium nitride type compound is shown in Fig. 11.
25

First, by the organometallic compound vapor phase growth method (hereinafter referred to as MOCVD method), the carrier gas H_2 together with trimethyl gallium which is an organometallic compound gas (hereinafter referred to as TMG), ammonia (NH_3) and SiH_4 and the like are supplied
30 as a dopant to a substrate consisting, for example, of
35

sapphire (single crystal Al_2O_3) at low temperature of 400° to 700°C, approximately 0.10 to 0.2 μm of low temperature buffer layer 2 consisting of n-type GaN layer is formed, and then the same gas is supplied at high temperature of 700° to 1200°C, and approximately 2 to 5 μm of high temperature buffer layer 3 consisting of n-type GaN of the same composition is formed. The low temperature buffer layer 2 is formed by polycrystalline layer to ease the strain caused by mismatching of the lattice between a substrate 1 and the single crystal layer of semiconductor and then turned into a single crystal by being subjected to 700° to 1200°C, in order to match the lattice by laminating the single crystal of the high temperature buffer layer 3 on that single crystal.

Further, material gas of trimethyl aluminium (hereinafter referred to as TMA) is added to the foregoing gas, a film of an n-type $Al_kGa_{1-k}N$ ($0 < k < 1$) layer containing S of n-type dopant is formed, so that approximately 0.1 to 0.3 μm of an n-type clad layer 4 is formed to form a double heterodyne junction.

Then, instead of TMA which is the foregoing material gas, trimethyl indium (hereinafter referred to as TMI) is introduced to form approximately 0.05 to 0.1 μm of an active layer 5 consisting, for example, of $In_yGa_{1-y}N$ ($0 < y < 1$), a material whose band gap is smaller than that of the clad layer.

Further, impurity material gas is substituted by SiH_4 using the same material gas used for forming the n-type clad layer 4, Mg as a p-type impurity of bis(cyclopentadiene) magnesium (hereinafter referred to as Cp_2Mg) or dimethyl zinc (hereinafter referred to as DMZn) for An is added and introduced into a reaction tube, causing a p-type $Al_kGa_{1-k}N$ layer which is a p-type clad layer 6 to be grown in vapor phase. By this process, a double hetero junction is formed by the n-type clad layer 4, active layer 5, and p-type clad layer 6.

Next, in order to form a contact layer (cap layer) 7, Cp_2Mg or DMZn is supplied as the impurity

material gas using the same gas as the foregoing buffer layer 23 to form 0.3 to 2 μm of the p-type GaN layer.

Afterward, a protective film such as SiO_2 and Si_3N_4 is provided all over the surface of the grown layer of a semiconductor layer, aniline or electron is irradiated at 400° to 800°C for approximately 20 to 60 minutes to activate the p-type clad layer 6 and the contact layer (cap layer) 7, after the protective film is removed, resist is applied and patterning is provided to form an electrode on the n-side, part or respective grown semiconductor layers is removed by dry etching so as to expose the buffer layer 3 or the n-type clad layer 4 which is the n-type GaN layer, an electrode 8 on the n-side and an electrode 9 on the p-side are formed by sputtering and the like, and AN LED chip is formed by dicing.

As a conventional semiconductor laser, one that uses a semiconductor of GaAs type compound is known, in which a resonator is formed by a double hetero junction structure with both sides of an active layer being held between clad layers consisting of a material having greater band gap energy and smaller refractive index than the material of such active layer, so that it is possible to obtain the light oscillated in such resonator. Shown in Fig. 12 is an example of a semiconductor laser which uses a semiconductor of GaAs type compound having a refractive index wave guide structure provided with a difference of refractive index by an absorption layer in order to confine the light in the stripe portion of the active layer.

In Fig. 12, the numeral 121 represents a semiconductor substrate consisting, for example, of an n-type GaAs, on which are laminated in order a lower clad layer 124 consisting, for example, of an n-type $\text{Al}_{0.35-0.75}\text{Ga}_{1-\alpha}\text{As}$ ($0.35 \leq \alpha \leq 0.75$), an active layer 125 consisting, for example, of $\text{Al}_{0-\beta}\text{Ga}_{1-\beta}\text{As}$ ($0 < \beta \leq 0.3$) of non-doping type or an n-type or a p-type, a first upper clad layer 126a consisting of a p-type $\text{Al}_{0-\beta}\text{Ga}_{1-\beta}\text{As}$, a current laminating 120 consisting of an n-type GaAs, a

second upper clad layer 126b consisting of a p-type $Al_{1-x}Ga_xAs$, and a contact layer (cap layer) 127 consisting of a p-type GaAs, and the p-side electrode 128 and the n-side electrode 129 are respectively provided on the upper surface and the lower surface in order to form a chip of a semiconductor laser. In this structure, the current limiting layer 120 consisting of the n-type GaAs restricts the injection current to the stripe-like active area of width W, by absorbing the light generated by the active layer, a difference of refractive index is provided in the inside and the outside of the stripe. Therefore, the semiconductor laser of the present invention is used as a semiconductor laser of a red or infrared ray refractive index wave guide structure wherein the light is confined in transverse direction and the wave of stripe-like active area of width W is directed stably.

In the semiconductor laser of such structure, a blue light radiating semiconductor laser using a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound is also requested.

In a conventional semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound, the light emitting efficiency of the light emitting element of double hetero junction is high but the operating voltage thereof is high. If a material of small band gap energy, that is, a material of small Al composition rate k of $Al_kGa_{1-k}N$ is used for the n-type clad layer and the p-type clad layer in order to lower the operating voltage, the operating voltage is lowered but the electron outflow from the active layer to the p-type clad layer increases, while the light emitting efficiency is lowered.

In the case where a semiconductor laser is to be composed by using a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound, by providing a structure wherein an active layer is interposed between both sides by a clad layer consisting of a material having greater band gap energy and smaller refractive index than such active layer so as to confine the light in the active layer for oscillation,

05047 DE 700

05047 DE 700

05047 DE 700

05047 DE 700

09604097.062700

emitting element of a semiconductor which uses a conventional semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound is composed by laminating on a sapphire substrate a semiconductor layer of gallium nitride type compound by means of a low temperature buffer layer consisting of GaN and a high temperature buffer layer, the lattice constant 4.758Å of the sapphire substrate is largely different from the lattice constant 3.189Å of GaN, the interatomic bonding strength of GaN is strong although it is weaker than that of AlGa_{0.3}GaN group, so that a crystal defect or transition is likely to occur due to temperature shock. In case a crystal defect or transition occurs in the low temperature buffer layer, the crystal defect or transition progresses to the semiconductor layer formed thereon, thereby deteriorating the light emitting characteristic and reducing the life.

In addition, in the light emitting element of a semiconductor which uses a conventional semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound, as described above, electric current flows between the p-side electrode 8 provided on the contact layer 7 and the n-side electrode 9 provided on the high temperature buffer layer 3 which is an n-type layer due to the voltage applied therebetween, and the electric current flowing to the n-side electrode 9 has high carrier density of the buffer layers 2 and 3, so that the electric current flows throughout the buffer layers 3 and 2. On the other hand, because the buffer layer, the low temperature buffer layer 2 in particular is formed on a substrate consisting, for example, of sapphire that has a different lattice constant from that of a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound, crystal defects or transition are likely to occur. When electric current flows into the buffer layer where crystal defects or transition take place, crystal defects or transition increase further due to the heat generated by the electric current, such crystal defects or transition progress to the semiconductor which contributes to the emission of light, thereby lowering the light emitting characteristic,

reliability or the life.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide
5 a light emitting device (hereinafter referred to as a
light emitting element) of a semiconductor using a highly
characteristic semiconductor of gallium nitride type
compound which prevents increase in series resistance,
that is, an increase in operating voltage resulting from
10 the use of a semiconductor of gallium nitride type
compound as described above and restricts further the
occurrence of crystal defects or transition.

A first object of the present invention is to
provide a light emitting element of a semiconductor of
15 double hetero structure in which the light emitting
efficiency does not lower with the operating voltage being
low.

A second object of the present invention is to
provide a semiconductor laser of high light emitting
20 efficiency which demonstrates sufficiently the effect of
confining the light in an active layer by a clad layer
even in a semiconductor laser which uses a semiconductor
of gallium nitride type compound and is suitable for
emission of blue light, lowers the series resistance of
25 the semiconductor layer, and operates on low operating
voltage.

A third object of the present invention is to p
provide a light emitting element of a semiconductor in
which the contact resistance between the n-side electrode
30 and the contact layer is small and a large output can be
obtained from low operating voltage.

A fourth object of the present invention is to
provide a light emitting element of a semiconductor of
high characteristic and long life which restricts
35 occurrence of crystal defects or transition by reducing
further the strain of the buffer layer on the surface of a
substrate consisting of sapphire and the like and prevents
the progress of crystal defects or transition toward the

00504057-0002700

semiconductor layer which contributes to emission of light.

The light emitting element of a semiconductor which realizes the first object of the present invention has at least a sandwich structure consisting of an n-type clad layer, an active layer, and a p-type clad layer, is light emitting element of a semiconductor of double hetero junction type which is formed by a material, band gap energy of said active layer being smaller than the band gap energy of both the foregoing clad layers, and both the foregoing clad layers being selected so that the band gap energy of the foregoing n-type clad layer becomes smaller than the band gap energy of the foregoing p-type clad layer.

It is preferable that the foregoing n-type clad layer consists of an n-type $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ ($0 \leq x \leq 0.5$), that the foregoing active layer consists of $\text{In}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{N}$ ($0 \leq y \leq 1$), that the foregoing n-type clad layer consists of a p-type $\text{Al}_z\text{Ga}_{1-z}\text{N}$ ($0 < z \leq 1$), where $2x \leq z$.

It is preferable that a buffer layer consisting of GaN is provided between one of the foregoing clad layers and the substrate in order that it is possible to relieve the strain of the clad layer, prevent occurrence of crystal defects or transition in the clad layer, and lower the resistance of the semiconductor layer.

In accordance with the light emitting element of a semiconductor which realizes the first object of the present invention, because a material having smaller band gap energy than that of the p-type clad layer is used for the n-type clad layer, injection of electron into the active layer from the n-type clad layer is carried out easily at low voltage. On the other hand, because a material having a large band gap energy is used for the p-type clad layer in the same way as in the past, escape of electron from the active layer to the p-type clad layer is less, contributing to recombination of electron and positive hole in the active layer. Because the positive hole has a greater effective mass than the electron, there

is less escape of the electron toward the n-type clad layer side of the positive hole injected into the active layer even if the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer is small. Therefore, the electron contributes to recombination in the active layer without wasting the positive hole, so that it is possible to lower the operating voltage by the amount of the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer is reduced, and the light of approximately the same luminance is emitted.

Because the rate of the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer can be made small is approximately three times the electron having effective mass of the positive hole, it is possible to reduce the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer to approximately half the difference of the band gap energy between the p-type clad layer and the active layer, if the $Al_{1-k}Ga_kN$ material is used, it is possible to reduce the ratio k of Al to less than half the ratio of Al of the p-type clad layer, and it is possible to lower the operating voltage by 5 to 10 %.

A light emitting element which realizes the second object of the present invention is a semiconductor laser of double hetero junction structure which has an active layer, an n-type layer and p-type layer consisting of a material having greater band gap energy and smaller refractive index than the active layer, and the foregoing active layer being held between the foregoing n-type layer and the p-type layer, wherein the foregoing n-type layer and the p-type layer respectively consist of at least two layers, a low refractive index layer consisting of material with small refractive index is provided on the foregoing active layer side of the n-type layer and p-type layer, and a low resistance layer having smaller electric resistance than the foregoing low refractive index layer is provided in other portion of an electric current path of the n-type layer and p-type layer.

It is preferable that the thickness of the foregoing low refractive index layer is 10 to 50 % with respect to the thickness of the foregoing n-type layer or

p-type layer, so that it is possible to confine the light effectively in the active layer to certain extent and to lower the operating voltage.

Similar to the foregoing, it is preferable that
5 the thickness of the foregoing refractive index layer is 0.1 to 0.3 μm because it is possible to confine the light effectively in the active layer to certain extent and to lower the operating voltage.

In order to obtain a semiconductor laser which
10 emits blue light of excellent light emitting characteristic, it is preferable that the foregoing active layer consists of $\text{Al}_m\text{Ga}_{1-m}\text{In}_{1-m-n}\text{N}$ ($0 \leq m < 1$, $0 < n < 1$, $0 < m+n < 1$), the foregoing low refractive index layer consists of $\text{Al}_r\text{Ga}_{1-r}\text{In}_{1-r-s}\text{N}$ ($0 \leq r < 1$, $0 < s < 1$,
15 $m+n < r+s \leq 1$, $m < r$), and the foregoing low resistance layer consists of $\text{Al}_t\text{Ga}_{1-t}\text{In}_{1-t-u}\text{N}$ ($0 \leq t < 1$, $0 < u \leq 1$, $0 < t+u < 1$, $m < t < r$, $m+n < t+u \leq r+s$).

It is preferable that $m=0$ in the material composition of the foregoing active layer, that $r+s=1$ in
20 the material composition of the foregoing low refractive index layer, and that $t=0$ and $u=1$ in the material composition of the foregoing low resistance layer because it is possible to obtain a semiconductor laser which is of more simple structure, has excellent light emitting
25 characteristic, and emits blue light.

In accordance with the semiconductor laser which realizes the second object of the present invention, since the band gap energy for sandwiching the active layer is large, a low refractive index layer is provided on the
30 respective active layer side of the n-type layer and p-type layer consisting of a material with small refractive index, and a low resistance layer of small electric resistance is provided in other portion which is to be an electric current path, effect for confining the
35 light into the active layer is achieved by reflecting the light efficiently on the low refractive index layer, with respect to an increase in specific resistance due to the low refractive index layer, it is possible to reduce

sufficiently the operating voltage by other low resistance layer without being influenced excessively by forming the low refractive index layer on a thin layer of approximately 0.1 to 0.3 μm for example.

- 5 As a result, it is possible to prevent heat generation due to excessive resistance loss, improve the light emitting efficiency, and extend the life.

- The light emitting element of a semiconductor which realizes the third object of the present invention is a light emitting element of a semiconductor in which a semiconductor layer of gallium nitride type compound having a light emitting portion containing at least an n-type layer and p-type layer is laminated on a substrate and an n-side electrode an p-side electrode to be connected respectively to the foregoing n-type layer and p-type layer are provided, and on at least the electrode side surface of the semiconductor layer to be provided with the foregoing p-side electrode are provided a p-type $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ ($0 < a < 1$) or p-type GaSb or p-type GaP or p-type $\text{In}_b\text{Ga}_{1-b}\text{As}$ ($0 < b < 1$) or $\text{In}_b\text{Ga}_{1-b}\text{P}$ ($0 < b < 1$).

- 20 That the composition ratio of In of the foregoing $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ is $0 < a \leq 0.5$ is preferable, so that it is possible to lower the contact resistance without emerging the problem of lattice mismatching.

- 25 In accordance with the light emitting element of a semiconductor which realizes the third object of the present invention, because $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ or GaSb or GaP or $\text{In}_b\text{Ga}_{1-b}\text{As}$ or $\text{In}_b\text{Ga}_{1-b}\text{P}$ is used on the surface of the contact layer to be provided with the p-side electrode, 30 the contact resistance of the semiconductor layer and the electrode becomes small. In other words, because these semiconductor layer such as $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ has smaller band gap energy (forbidden band width) than GaN and is difficult to be oxidized, it becomes difficult for the surface level to 35 occur and the difficulty of flowing electric current (contact resistance) due to the trapping of electron or positive hole according to the surface level is reduced. Further, a semiconductor layer such as $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ has

containing at least one kind of element selected from a group consisting of P and As.

It is preferable that the foregoing buffer layer has a low temperature buffer layer formed at least at low
5 temperature and that the low temperature buffer layer is a semiconductor layer consisting of $\text{In}_c\text{Ga}_{1-c}\text{N}$ ($0 < c < 1$) or $\text{In}_d\text{Al}_{e-c}\text{Ga}_{1-d-e}\text{N}$ ($0 < d < 1$, $0 < e < 1$, $0 < d+e < 1$).

It is preferable that the foregoing buffer layer has a low temperature buffer layer formed at least at low
10 temperature and that the low temperature buffer layer is a semiconductor layer consisting of $\text{Ga}_u\text{N}_{1-u}\text{P}_1-v$ ($0 < u < 1$) or $\text{Ga}_v\text{N}_{1-v}\text{As}_1-v$ ($0 < v < 1$) because it is possible to reduce the straining of the buffer layer.

In accordance with this light emitting element of
15 a semiconductor, because In, P or As is contained in the buffer layer consisting of semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound on a sapphire substrate, the buffer layer becomes soft and occurrence of crystal defects or transition becomes difficult. In other words, when a
20 part of Ga of GaN becomes $\text{In}_c\text{Ga}_{1-c}\text{N}$ ($0 < c < 1$) which is substituted by In, In is heavier than Ga and is easily cut in a crystal, the strain is easily relieved, making it difficult for crystal defects and the like to occur. In addition, it becomes easy to form a polycrystalline film
25 at low temperature by containing In, and it is possible to relieve the strain further by forming a buffer layer at low temperature. These phenomena apply in the same manner to $\text{In}_d\text{Al}_{e-c}\text{Ga}_{1-d-e}\text{N}$ ($0 < d < 1$, $0 < c < 1$, $0 < d+c < 1$) of which part of Ga is substituted by Al.

Further, when part of N of GaN becomes $\text{Ga}_u\text{N}_{1-u}\text{P}_1-v$ ($0 < u < 1$) or $\text{Ga}_v\text{N}_{1-v}\text{As}_1-v$ ($0 < v < 1$) of which part of N of GaN is substituted by P or As, P or As becomes heavier than N and easily moves in a crystal, so that the combination is easily cut. Therefore, according to the
35 same reason that part of the foregoing Ga is substituted by In, the strain of the buffer layer is relieved, so that it becomes difficult for crystal defects or transition to occur.

Crystal defects or transition occurred in a buffer layer where the strain is likely to occur most in contact with sapphire substrate and the like progress toward a semiconductor layer which contributes to the light emitting portion, and the strain of the buffer layer is relieved and the occurrence of crystal defects or transition of the buffer layer is restricted, so that the occurrence of crystal defects or transition of a semiconductor layer which contributes to the light emitting portion is restricted, the light emitting characteristic is improved, and the life and also improved.

Other light emitting element of a semiconductor which achieves the forth object of the present invention consists of a semiconductor layer where the electric current is difficult to flow at least on the foregoing substrate side of the buffer layer.

That the foregoing buffer layer is a semiconductor layer of gallium nitride type compound containing at least one kind of element selected from a group consisting of In, P and As is preferable because softness is provided and it is possible to relieve the strain and to make it difficult for crystal defects or transition to occur.

Because at least the foregoing substrate side of the foregoing buffer layer is consisted of a semiconductor layer of high resistance, it is possible to make it difficult for the electric current to flow.

Even in the case of a conductive type semiconductor layer which is different from a conductive type semiconductor layer in which at lest the foregoing substrate side of the foregoing buffer layer is laminated directly on the buffer layer, it is possible to make it difficult for the electric current to flow to the substrate side of the buffer layer.

Because the foregoing buffer layer is formed at high temperature on a p-type low temperature buffer layer formed at low temperature on the foregoing substrate

surface and such low temperature buffer layer, consisted of a high temperature buffer layer in which at least the surface side is made an n-type, on such high temperature buffer layer are sequentially formed an n-type clad layer, 5 an active layer, a p-type clad layer, and a p-type contact layer in that order, the p-side electrode is formed on such p-type contact layer, the n-type electrode is formed on the foregoing n-type clad layer exposed by etching or on the high temperature buffer layer, it is possible to 10 obtain a light emitting element of a semiconductor of hetero junction structure in which it is difficult for the electric current to flow toward the buffer layer on the substrate side.

Because the foregoing buffer layer consists of 15 GaN, the foregoing n-type and p-type clad layer consists of $Al_kGa_{1-k}N$ ($0 < k < 1$) respectively, the foregoing active layer consists of $Ga_yIn_{1-y}N$ ($0 < y \leq 1$), and foregoing p-type contact layer consists of GaN, it is possible to obtain a simply structured light emitting element of a 20 semiconductor of double hetero junction structure.

In accordance with the light emitting element of a semiconductor of the present invention, because the semiconductor layer contacting at least the substrate of the semiconductor layer of gallium nitride type compound 25 to be laminated on the substrate is made a semiconductor layer where it is difficult for the electric current to flow, there will be no further increase in crystal defects or transition caused by the electric current which occur due to the strain based on the difference of the lattice 30 constant with respect to the substrate, and further the progress is restricted of crystal defects or transition toward the semiconductor layer contributing to the light emitting portion, so that it is possible to obtain a semiconductor layer of less crystal defects or transition.

35 In other words, when the electric current flows to a semiconductor layer where crystal defects or transition are occurring, a resistance loss occurs and heat is generated in a portion where crystal defects or

transition are occurring, crystal defects or transition increase further, and the vicious cycle is repeated. On the other hand, because crystal defects or transition of the semiconductor of a portion contributing to radiation results from the progress of crystal defects or transition occurred in the semiconductor of a portion contributing to radiation results from the progress of crystal defects or transition occurred in the semiconductor layer contacting the substrate, by restricting the occurrence of crystal defects or transition in the semiconductor layer which positively contributes to the emission of light. As a result, a light emitting element of a semiconductor of excellent light emitting characteristic, high reliability, and long life can be obtained.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an explanatory drawing illustrating a section of an example 1 of the light emitting element of a semiconductor of the present invention;

Figs. 2(a) through 2(c) are explanatory drawings illustrating manufacturing processes of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an energy band drawing mainly illustrating a forbidden band of a clad layer and an active layer of an example 1 of the light emitting element of a semiconductor of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is an explanatory drawing of a section illustrating an example 2 of the semiconductor laser of the present invention;

Figs. 5(a) through 5(c) are explanatory drawings illustrating processes of the manufacturing method of an example 2 of the semiconductor laser of the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a drawing illustrating the relation of the light emitting efficiency with respect to the thickness of a low refractive index layer;

Fig. 7 is an explanatory drawing of a section illustrating an example 3 of the light emitting element of a semiconductor of the present invention;

Figs. 8(a) through 8(c) are drawings illustrating manufacturing methods of the light emitting element of a semiconductor of Fig. 7;

Figs. 9(a) through 9(b) are explanatory drawings of the energy band of the contact layer and the electrode metal of the light emitting element of a semiconductor of Fig. 7;

Fig. 10(a) through 10(d) are explanatory drawings illustrating manufacturing processes of the example 4 of the light emitting element of a semiconductor of the present invention;

Fig. 11 is a perspective drawing illustrating an example of a conventional light emitting element of a semiconductor and

Fig. 12 is an explanatory drawing of a section of a conventional semiconductor of GaAs type compound.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring now in detail to the drawings, the light emitting of a semiconductor of the present invention will be described.

Example 1

Fig. 1 is an explanatory drawing of a section of a laser chip of a mesa-type shape semiconductor of an example 1 of the light emitting element of a semiconductor of the present invention, Figs. 2(a) through 2(c) are the manufacturing process drawing thereof, and Fig. 3 is a schematic illustration showing the energy band drawing mainly of the forbidden band of an n-type clad layer, an active layer, and a p-type clad layer of the light emitting element of a semiconductor of the example 1.

In Fig. 1, the numeral 1 indicates a substrate such as sapphire (single crystal of Al_2O_3) consisting of an n-type GaN, wherein a low temperature buffer layer 2 of

In the light emitting element of a semiconductor of the present invention, as shown in an example of this semiconductor laser, the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer 14 smaller than the band gap energy of the p-type clad layer 16, and both clad layers 14 and 16 and the active layer 5 is formed by a material having a greater band gap energy than that of the active layer 5.

In order to recombine the electron and the positive hole efficiently and to improve the light emitting efficiency, a light emitting element of a semiconductor of double junction structure for sandwiching 35 the active layer 5 consisting of a material having a small band gap energy by clad layers consisting of material having a large band gap energy, is used for a semiconductor laser or an LED of high luminance. When a

material having a large band gap energy is used for the clad layer, effect of confining the electron and the positive hole increases and contributes to the emission of light without waste but the operating voltage increases, and in practice, a material having a band gap energy which can ignore to a certain degree the leakage of the electron and the positive hole from the active layer, is selected. However, the operating voltage increases as compared with that of the pn junction. In the present invention, it is so designed that it is possible to lower the operating voltage while maintaining this degree with which the electron and the positive hole can be ignored. In other words, the effective mass of the positive hole is as approximately three times large as the effective mass of electron, and the leakage from the positive hole is smaller than that from the electron even if the band gap energy is small. For this reason, by using for the n-type clad layer a material having a band gap energy smaller than that of the p-type clad layer, it is possible to inject the electron into the active layer at low voltage and prevent the leakage of the positive hole from the active layer.

Referring now to Fig. 3 which illustrates a schematic diagram showing the energy band drawing of the foregoing semiconductor laser of Fig. 1, the action of the present invention will be described. In Fig. 3, the letter V represents the valence band, F the forbidden band, and C the energy band of the conduction band respectively, and the letters A represents the high temperature buffer layer consisting of an n-type GaN, B the n-type clad layer 14 consisting of n-type GaN, B the n-type clad layer 14 consisting of an n-type $Al_{0.07}Ga_{0.93}N$, D the active layer 5 consisting of $In_{0.7}Ga_{1-0.7}N$, G the p-type clad layer 16 consisting of $Al_{0.15}Ga_{0.85}N$, and J the contact layer 7 consisting of a p-type GaN respectively of the ranges of the energy bands thereof.

In the semiconductor laser of this example, as

shown in Fig. 3, the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer indicated by B is formed to be smaller than the band gap energy of the p-type clad layer indicated by G. The band gap energy indicated by the broken line B₁ illustrates the case of the band gap energy which is the same as the p-type clad layer in a conventional structure.

With this structure, when voltage is applied between the p-side electrode 8 and the n-side electrode 9, the electron E flows from the n-type GaN (high temperature buffer layer A) to the p-side, and then into the conduction band K₁ of the active layer. In this case, because the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer is low, the electron E is likely to flow into the conduction band K₁ of the active layer, so that the electron is supplied to the active layer even with low voltage. The electron E flowed into the conduction band K₁ of the active layer is pulled by the p-side electrode, but is confined in the active layer because the band gap energy of the p-type clad layer is large. On the other hand, the positive hole flows from the p-type GaN (contact layer J) to the n-side, and then into the valence band K₂ of the active layer. The positive hole H flowed into the valence band K₂ of the active layer is pulled by the n-side electrode, but the effective mass of the positive hole H is as approximately three times large as the effective mass of electron, the positive hole cannot climb over the band gap energy even if the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer B is low, and is confined effectively in the valence band of the active layer. As a result, recombination of the electron and the positive hole is carried out in the active layer efficiently, and high light emitting efficiency can be obtained.

As described above, in accordance with the present invention, because each semiconductor layer is selected so that the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer is made smaller than that of the p-type clad layer, it is possible to inject the electron into the active layer with low voltage and improve the light emitting

efficiency without increasing the reactive current. The degree that makes the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer smaller than that of the p-type clad layer is determined by the band gap energy of the active layer, and
5 the degree may be as low as 1/3 to 1/2 in the case of the p-type layer by the difference of the band gap energy of the active layer.

In order to reduce the band gap energy by using a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound consisting
10 of a general formula $\text{Al}_p\text{Ga}_{1-p}\text{N}_q$ ($0 \leq p < 1$, $0 < q \leq 1$, $0 < p+q \leq 1$), it is possible to obtain a small band gap energy by making p small, that is, by making the composition ratio of Al small, or by making $p+q$ small, that is, by making the composition ratio of In large. For
15 this reason, by adjusting the composition ratio of Al and In so as to make the band gap energy of the clad layer larger than that of the active layer, and so as to make the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer smaller than that of the p-type clad layer, it is possible to obtain a
20 semiconductor layer of a desired band gap energy.

Because the example shown in Fig. 1 refers to a semiconductor, it is necessary to confine the light in the active layer and oscillate it, so that the refractive index of the clad layer is made smaller than that of the
25 active layer, but it is not always necessary to do so in the case of LED. However, if the composition ratio of Al is made large by the foregoing composition ratio, the refractive index is made small.

Next, by referring to Fig. 2(a) through 2(c), the
30 manufacturing method of the semiconductor laser shown in Fig. 1 will be described.

First, as shown in Fig. 2(a), on a substrate 1 consisting of sapphire and the like is grown by the MOCVD method, approximately 0.01 to 0.2 μm of a low temperature
35 buffer layer 2 consisting, for example, of a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound such as the n-type GaN, and approximately 2 to 5 μm of a high temperature bufrer layer 3 consisting of the n-type GaN of the same

composition is formed at 700° to 1200°C.

Next, TMI is supplied further, and approximately 0.1 to 0.3 μm of an n-type clad layer 14 consisting, for example, of the n-type $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ ($0 \leq x \leq 0.5$, where $x=0.07$ for example) is formed. Afterward, TMI is supplied instead of TMA and an active layer 5 consisting of a non-doping type or an n-type or p-type $\text{In}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{N}$ ($0 \leq y \leq 1$, where $y=0.06$ for example) is caused to grow to a thickness of approximately 0.05 to 0.1 μm . Then, by using the same material gas as the material gas which is used to form the n-type clad layer 14, TMA is supplied to a reaction tube at the flow rate of 20 to 100 sccm which is approximately twice the case of the n-type clad layer 14 so as to form approximately 0.1 to 0.3 μm of the p-type $\text{Al}_z\text{Ga}_{1-z}\text{N}$ ($0 < z \leq 1$, $2x \leq z$, where $z=0.15$ for example) which is the p-type clad layer 16. Further, the same material gas used for forming the buffer layer 3 is supplied so as to form approximately 0.3 to 2 μm of a contact layer 7 consisting of the p-type GaN.

In order to form the foregoing buffer layer 3 or clad layer 14 into an n-type clad layer, Si, Ge, Te is mixed into a reaction oven as the impurity material gas such as SiH_4 , GeH_4 , and TeH_4 , and in order to form the clad layer 6 or the contact layer 7 into a p-type clad layer, Mg or Zn is mixed into the material gas as the organometallic gas of Cp_2Mg or DMZn . However, in the case of the n-type, even if the impurity is not mixed, N is easily evaporated during film forming and is turned into the n-type naturally, and therefore such nature may be utilized.

Afterwards, a protective film 10a such as SiO_2 or Si_3N_4 is provided over the entire surface of the grown layer of a semiconductor layer (refer to Fig. 2(b)), annealed for approximately 20 to 60 minutes at 400 to 800°C, and the p-type clad layer 16 and the cap layer 7 which are the p-type layer.

When annealing is completed, as shown in Fig. 2(C), a mask such as a resist film 10b is provided and the

laminated semiconductor layer is etched until the n-type clad layer 14 or the n-type high temperature buffer layer 3 is exposed. This etching is carried out by the reactive ion etching under the atmosphere of a mixed gas of Cl_2 and BCl_3 for example.

Then, a metallic film such as Au and Al is formed by sputtering, on the surface of the laminated compound of semiconductor layer is formed the p-side electrode 8 to be electrically connected to the p-type layer, on the surface of the exposed high temperature buffer layer 3 is formed the n-side electrode 9 to be electrically connected to the n-type layer, and part of the contact layer 7 and the p-type clad layer 16 are etched into mesa-type shape layers (refer to Fig. 1).

Next, each chip is diced, and thus semiconductor laser chips are formed.

In this example, the semiconductor laser of mesa-type shape current stripe structure is described, but the present invention can also be applied to a semiconductor laser of various structures such as the flush type current limiting layer or the light emitting element of semiconductor which uses a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound such as LED of double hetero junction structure.

In accordance with the light emitting element of a semiconductor of this example, because the semiconductor material is selected so that it is possible to make the band gap energy of the n-type clad layer smaller than the band gap energy of the p-type clad layer, reactive current is less, and, it is possible to emit the light of high luminance with low operating voltage and to obtain a light emitting element of semiconductor having high light emitting efficiency.

Example 2

Fig. 4 is an explanatory drawing of a section of the chip of a semiconductor laser which is the other example of the light emitting element of the semiconductor

of the present invention, and Fig. 5(a) through 5(c) are an explanatory drawing of a section of the process of the manufacturing method thereof.

As shown in Fig. 4, in the semiconductor laser of this example, a low buffer layer 22 of approximately 0.01 to 0.2 μm which is a lower resistance layer with small electric resistance consisting of an n-type $\text{Al}_t\text{Ga}_{1-t-u}\text{N}$ ($0 \leq t < 1$, $0 < u \leq 1$, $0 < t+u \leq 1$) and the like provided on a substrate 1 such as sapphire (single crystal of Al_2O_3), a high temperature buffer layer 23 of approximately 2 to 5 μm , an n-type clad layer 24 of approximately 0.1 to 0.3 μm which is low refractive index layer consisting of an n-type $\text{Al}_r\text{Ga}_s\text{In}_{1-r-s}\text{N}$ ($0 \leq t < r < 1$, $0 < s < 1$, $0 < r+s < 1$) and having the refractive index smaller than that of the foregoing buffer layers 22 and 23 (the ratio of Al is larger than that of t), an active layer 25 of approximately 0.05 to 0.1 μm consisting of $\text{Al}_m\text{Ga}_n\text{In}_{1-m-n}\text{N}$ ($0 < m < r$, $0 < m+n < r+s$) of a non-doping type or an n-type or a p-type and having a smaller band gap energy and a larger refractive index than the n-type clad layer 24 (the ratio n of Al is small and the ratio $1-m-n$ of In is large), a p-type clad layer 26 of approximately 0.1 to 0.3 μm which is a low refractive index layer of the same composition as the n-type clad layer 24, a current limiting layer 20 consisting of GaN and the like formed with a stripe groove, and a contact layer consisting of the p-type $\text{Al}_t\text{Ga}_u\text{In}_{1-t-u}\text{N}$ ($0 \leq t < 1$, $0 < u \leq 1$, $0 < t+u \leq 1$) of approximately 3 to 2 μm which is a low refractive index layer of the same composition as the buffer layers 22 and 23 are laminated in order, the p-side electrode 8 is provided on the surface of the contact layer 27, the n-side electrode 9 on the high temperature buffer layer 23 which is exposed by etching a part of the laminated semiconductor layer, and a chip of the semiconductor laser of this example is formed.

In the semiconductor laser of this example, the n-type layer and the p-type layer which hold the active layer 25 is separated into the buffer layers 22 and

23 which are the low resistance layer respectively, the n-type clad layer 24 which is the low refractive index layer, the p-type clad layer 6 which is the low refractive index layer, and the contact layer 27 which is the low resistance layer, and the low refractive index layer is formed into a minimum thickness necessary to confine the light into the active layer. In order to inspect the influence on the low refractive index layer by the thickness, the inventor of the present invention inspected the light emitting efficiency in a manner as shown in an example of concrete structure to be described layer, namely, on the buffer layer 23 is formed approximately 3 μm of the n-type GaN, on the n-type and p-type clad layers 24 and 26 are formed $\text{Al}_{0.3}\text{Ga}_{0.7}\text{N}$, and on the contact layer 27 is formed approximately 2 μm of the p-type GaN respectively, the thickness of the clad layers 24 and 26 are changed differently from 0 to 0.4 μm (the thickness of the buffer layer 3 and the contact layer 27 is also changed every time so as to keep the total thickness of the clad layers 24 and 26 constant), and thus the light emitting efficiency is inspected. Results of the inspection is shown in Fig. 6. As is apparent from Fig. 6, it is necessary that the thickness of the low refractive index layer is formed to be 0.05 to 0.3 μm , and preferably to be approximately 0.1 to 0.2 μm , and is formed to be 10 to 50 % with respect to the entire thickness of the n-type layer or the p-type layer, and preferably to be approximately 10 to 30 %.

In case where a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound is expressed as the general formula of $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{In}_y\text{N}_{1-y}$, in order to make the refractive index small in a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound, it is necessary to make the composition ratio of Al large and to make the composition ratio of In small, and when the composition ratio of Al is made large, the resistance is increased and the resistance loss results. Therefore, in this example, a low refractive index layer (the n-type clad layer 24 and the p-type clad layer 26) is provided

for confining the light into the semiconductor portion adjacent to the active layer 25 of the n-type layer (the buffer layers 22 and 23, and the n-type clad layer 24) which hold the active layer 25 therebetween, and other
5 portion is made a low resistance where the loss of resistance does not occur.

In order to make the specific resistance small in the semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound expressed as the foregoing general formula of
10 $Al_xGa_{1-x}In_{1-y}P_y$, the composition ratio of Al is to be simply made small. In this case, it is necessary for the n-type layer and the p-type layer which hold the active layer therebetween to be provided with the function as the clad layer to confine the light into the active layer, it
15 is preferable that even the low resistance layer (the buffer layers 22 and 23 and the contact layer 27) is formed by a material which has smaller refractive index and larger band gap energy than the active layer 25. In order to achieve this object, by making the composition
20 ratio of In large in the active layer 25 and by making such composition ratio small in the n-type layer and the p-type layer, it is possible to obtain a layer which is of low resistance has larger band gap energy and smaller refractive index than the active layer 25.

In this example, the composition ratios of the
25 n-type buffer layers 22 and 23 and the contact layer 27 are made to be the same, and the composition ratios of the n-type clad layer 24 and p-type clad layer 26 are made to be the same, but respective composition ratios may not
30 always have to be the same, and the low refractive index layer (the n-type clad layer 24 and p-type clad layer 26) may have smaller refractive index and larger band gap energy than the active layer 25 or the low resistance layer (the buffer layers 22 and 23 and the contact layer
35 27), and the low resistance layer may be of a material having smaller specific resistance than the low refractive index layer.

The low temperature buffer layer 22 is made to be

03604097.062700

a low resistance layer in this example, but it is not necessary to make the low temperature buffer layer to be an electric current path if it is possible to provide the n-side electrode 9 on the high temperature buffer layer 23, so that the low temperature buffer layer 22 may be made to be a high resistance layer or the p-type layer. In this case, it is preferable that electric current is not flowed to the low temperature buffer layer where crystal defects or transition are likely to occur, thereby making it possible to prevent an increase of crystal defects or transition.

Further, in the boundary between the low resistance layer and the low refractive index layer, the composition may not be changed sharply but may be changed gradually. Causing the composition to change gradually is effective to restrict the strain generating in the interface due to sudden change in composition. In addition, a second clad layer which is a low resistance layer similar to the contact layer 27 may be provided between the p-type clad layer 26 and the contact layer 27, so that the high temperature buffer layer 23 accomplishes the function of the clad layer of low resistance layer.

Next, the manufacturing method of the semiconductor laser of this example will be described by a definite example thereof. First, as shown in Fig. 5(a), a substrate 1 consisting of sapphire and the like is installed in a reaction tube, and in the same manner as the example 1, 10 slm of the carrier gas H_2 , 100 sccm of the reactant gas TMG, and 10 slm of NH_3 are introduced to grow in vapor phase at 400° to 700°C by means of the organometallic vapor phase growth method (hereinafter referred to as the MOCVD method), and a low temperature buffer layer 22 which is a polycrystalline film consisting of GaN of approximately 0.01 to 0.2 μm is formed. Then, by raising the temperature to 700° to 1200°C and allowing to stand for approximately 5 to 15 minutes, polycrystal line of the low temperature 5 to 15 minutes, polycrystal line of the low temperature buffer layer 2 is made into

a single crystal, by introducing thereon the same material gas as the foregoing and causing it to react in vapor phase at high temperature of 700° to 1200°C, a high temperature buffer layer 23 consisting of single crystal GaN is formed to 2 to 5 μm thick.

Further, by mixing TMA at the flow rate of 10 to 200 sccm and causing it to react in vapor phase, an n-type clad layer 24 consisting of $\text{Al}_{0.2}\text{Ga}_{0.8}\text{N}$ is formed to 0.1 to 0.3 μm thick.

Next, the dopant SiH_4 is stopped and in place of TMA, TMI is supplied at the flow rate of 10 to 200 sccm so as to form approximately 0.05 to 0.1 μm of a non-doping active layer 5 consisting of $\text{In}_{0.1}\text{Ga}_{0.9}\text{N}$, further the material gas of the same composition as that of the n-type clad layer 24 is supplied, the impurity material gas is replaced by SiH_4 and Cp_2Mg or DMZn is introduced at the flow rate of 10 to 1000 sccm so as to form the p-type clad layer 6 consisting of $\text{Al}_{0.2}\text{Ga}_{0.8}\text{N}$ to 0.1 to 0.3 μm thick, and then, the n-type GaN layer is formed to approximately 0.1 to 0.5 μm thick so as to form a current limiting layer 20 by supplying TMG, NH_3 , and SiH_4 .

Afterward, the furnace temperature is lowered to approximately the room temperature, a substrate with semiconductor layer laminated thereon is taken out from the MOCVD device, and as shown in Fig. 5(b), a stripe groove is formed by etching by lithographic process, and the current limiting layer 20 is formed.

Afterwards, as shown in Fig. 5(c), the substrate is put into the MOCVD device again with the temperature set at 700° to 1200°C, TMG and NH_3 as the reactant gas and Cp_2Mg or DMZn as the dopant are supplied, and approximately 2 to 3 μm of a contact layer 27 consisting of GaN is formed.

Afterwards, a protective film such as SiO_2 and Si_3N_4 is provided on the entire surface of a semiconductor layer and annealed for approximately 20 to 60 minutes at 400° to 800°C so as to activate the p-type clad layer 26 and the contact layer 27.

Next, in order to form the n-side electrode, a mask is formed by a resist film and the like and part of a semiconductor layer laminated under atmosphere of Cl_2 gas is provided with reactive ion etching, a high temperature buffer layer 23 which is an n-type layer is caused to be exposed, a p-side electrode 8 consisting of Au and Au-Zn and the like is formed on the contact layer 27, an n-side electrode 9 consisting of Au and Au-Zn and the like is formed on the contact layer 27, an n-side electrode 9 consisting of Al and Au-Gc and the like is formed on the high temperature buffer layer 23, and a chip of a semiconductor laser is formed by dicing (refer to Fig. 4).

In this example, the semiconductor laser is a semiconductive laser of refractive index wave guide type provided with the current limiting layer 20, but it is also the same in the case of a gain wave guide stripe type semiconductor laser. Further, it is the semiconductor laser which uses a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound whose general formula is expressed as $Al_pGa_qIn_{1-p-q}N$, and though it is not so remarkable as the semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound, it will be effective by application of the present invention even in the case of a semiconductor of other compound such as the semiconductor of arsenic gallium type compound.

In accordance with a semiconductor laser of the example 2, because the n-type layer and the p-type layer for holding the active layer therebetween are respectively formed by at least a low refractive index layer and a low resistance layer, confinement of the light into the active layer is carried out by the low refractive index layer, electric resistance of the portion composing other electric current path becomes small due to the low resistance layer, so that it is possible to lower the operating voltage. As a result, it is possible to obtain a semiconductor laser which operates with low operating voltage and has high light emitting efficiency.

Example 3

In a further other example of the semiconductor laser of the present invention shown in Fig. 7, a low temperature buffer layer 2 of approximately 0.01 to 0.2 μm consisting of the n-type GaN and the like on a substrate 1 such as sapphire (single crystal of Al_2O_3), a high temperature buffer layer 3 of approximately 2 to 5 μm , a lower clad layer 4 of approximately 0.1 to 0.3 μm consisting of the n-type $\text{Al}_k\text{Ga}_{1-k}\text{N}$ ($0 < k < 1$), an active layer 5 of approximately 0.05 to 0.1 μm consisting of a non-doping or n-type or p-type $\text{In}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{N}$ ($0 < y < 1$) and having smaller band gap energy and larger refractive index than the lower clad layer 4, an upper clad layer 6 of approximately 0.3 to 2 μm which is of the same composition as the lower clad layer 4 and of the p-type, and a contact layer 37 consisting of the p-type GaN layer 37a of approximately 0.3 to 2 μm which is of the same composition as the buffer layers 2 and 3 and of the p-type and the p-type $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ ($0 < a < 1$) layer 27b of approximately 0.05 to 0.2 μm provided on the surface thereof are laminated in order, a p-side electrode 8 is provided on the $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ layer 37b of the surface of the contact layer 37, an n-side electrode 9 is provided on the n-type clad layer 4 or the high temperature buffer layer 3 exposed by etching a part of the laminated semiconductor layer, and a chip of the semiconductor laser of this example is formed.

In the semiconductor laser of this example, a semiconductor layer of gallium nitride type compound is laminated, the material of the p-type contact layer 37 to be provided with the p-type electrode 8 has smaller band gap energy than GaN and is difficult for the surface level to occur, for example, the p-type $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ layer 37b is provided on the surface of the GaN layer 37a, and the p-side electrode 8 is provided on the $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ layer 37b. Since lattice mismatching results if In is mixed with GaN, such mixture is not used in a layer except when a material of small band gap energy is indispensable as in the case of the active layer, and there has been no conception at all to use the $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ layer in the

contact layer 37. However, in the light emitting element of a semiconductor which uses a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound, it is not possible to increase the carrier density of the p-type layer above a certain value, and the increase in the contact resistance between the p-type layer and the p-side electrode increased the operating voltage and caused lowered light emitting efficiency. As the result of assiduous studies, the inventor of the present invention overcome the problem of lattice mismatching by forming the semiconductor layer to a thickness of approximately 0.05 to 0.2 μm in which a film is formed even if a little lattice mismatching should occur, found out that it is possible to lower the contact resistance with metal, and completed the present invention.

In the case where $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ contained with In as the material of small band gap energy is used, if the composition ratio of In is increased, the thickness for example of the foregoing semiconductor was not preferable in that a phenomenon such as occurrence of transition emerged, but by setting the composition ratio a of In to $0 < a \leq 0.5$, preferable to $0.05 \leq a < 0.3$, more preferable to $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.2$, it was made possible to reduce the contact resistance with metal without causing the problem transition.

Even in the case where GaAs or GaP was used as the material of small band gap energy instead of $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$, it was possible to perform an operation in which the contact resistance with metal was also small, it was also difficult for the surface level to occur on the semiconductor surface, and the operating voltage was low. Growth temperature of GaAs or GaP is different from that of the GaN type layer, but it is possible to obtain a layer by forming the GaN type layer and then by growing it by lowering the temperature inside the MOCVD device to 500° to 800°C . Though lattice mismatching of GaN occurs with respect to GaAs or GaP, but the influence due to lattice mismatching is reduced to certain extent by

setting the foregoing thickness to approximately 0.05 to 0.2 μm .

By mixing In further with GaAs or GaP, it is possible to use the characteristic that it is easy to make alloy using a metal which is difficult to be oxidized than Al and Ga, and it was possible to reduce the contact resistance further. In this case, it is possible to increase the composition ratio of In to approximately 0 to 0.5.

Next, referring to Fig. 9(a) and Fig. 9(b), and by providing a semiconductor of small band gap energy on the surface of the contact layer 37, the principle that the contact resistance with the p-side electrode is reduced will be described.

Fig. 9(a) and Fig. 9(b) are the drawings showing the energy band of the contact layer 37 and the p-side electrode 8, in which the left side of the drawing indicates the side of the p-type clad layer 6 of the contact layer 37, the right thereof indicates the side of the p-side electrode 8, and the letter L represents the energy band of the GaN layer 37a, M represent that of the $\text{In}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ layer 37b, and N represent that of part of the p-side electrode 8 respectively. Fig. 9(a) and Fig. 9(b) typically illustrate the state where the energy levels move upward and downward on the surface of the GaN layer 37a or the $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ layer 37b depending on the composition of the semiconductor layer and the kind of the metal for electrode to be provided on the surface of the semiconductor layer, and indicate the same phenomena in any state of Fig. 9(a) and Fig. 9(b). In Fig. 9(a) and Fig. 9(b), P_1 and P_2 indicate the valence band of GaN and $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ respectively, Q_1 and Q_2 the conduction band respectively, and R the energy level where the electron of an electrode metal is maximum. The gap F_1 of P_1 and Q_1 and the gap F_2 of P_2 and Q_2 respectively represent the band gap energy (forbidden band) of GaN and $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$. The flow of electric current from the p-side electrode to the contact layer means that the positive hole moves from

the energy level R of the electrode metal to the valence band P_1 of GaN, but in accordance with the present invention, because the $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ layer 12 is provided, it is normal once the positive hole climbs over the gap energy E_{v1} and flows to the valence band P_2 of the $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ layer 12, and then climbs over the gap energy E_{v2} from P_2 to P_1 and flows, so that the positive hole flows easily because it is not necessary for the positive hole to climb over the gap energy E_v at one time when there is no $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$. In this case, assuming that the constant of the electric current including the item of the temperature and k_1 and k_2 respectively, the gap energy can be expressed by $\exp\{-(k_1E_{v1}+k_2E_{v2})\}$. The reason that the energy barrier is divided into two stages is that the forbidden band width F_2 of $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ is smaller than the forbidden band width F_1 of GaN, and ideally, it is desirable to use the material of the forbidden band width F_1 of GaN GaAs or GaP or $\text{In}_b\text{Ga}_{1-b}\text{As}$ or $\text{In}_b\text{Ga}_{1-b}\text{P}$ has also the same relation of the forbidden band width, and the contact resistance is reduced in the same manner.

Next, referring to Figs. 8(a) through 8(c), the manufacturing method of the semiconductor laser of this example shown in Fig. 7 will be described.

First, as shown in Fig. 8(a), to the substrate 1 consisting of sapphire and the like in the same manner as the example 1 is supplied by the MOCVD method the carrier gas H_2 together with TMG and NH_3 which are the organometallic compound gas, and SiH_4 as the dopant, and the low temperature buffer layer 2 and the high temperature buffer layer 3 consisting of gallium nitride type semiconductor layer such as the n-type GaN layer are grown respectively to approximately 0.01 to 0.2 μm and 2 to 5 μm .

Then, TMA is added further to the foregoing gas, and n-type clad layer 4 containing Si and the like of the n-type dopant as the SiH_4 gas and the like is formed to approximate thickness of 1 to 2 μm .

Next, as a material in which the band gap energy

is smaller than that of the clad layer, in place of the foregoing material gas for example, TMI is introduced and approximately 0.05 to 0.1 μm of an active layer 5 is formed, further, in place of SiH_4 , the same material gas used for forming the n-type clad layer 4 is used and Cp_2Mg or DMZn is introduced into a reaction tube as the p-type impurity, and the p-type GaN layer which is the p-type clad layer 6 is caused to grow in vapor phase.

Then, as shown in Fig. 8(b), in order to form a contact layer, Cp_2Mg or DMZn is supplied as the dopant gas using the same gas of the foregoing buffer layer 3, and the p-type GaN layer 37a is grown to a thickness of approximately 0.3 to 2 μm .

Further, in order to reduce the contact resistance with the p-side electrode, TMI is added to the same material gas as the foregoing GaN layer 37a, and the $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ ($0 < a < 1$, where $a=0.1$ for example) is formed to a thickness of approximately 0.05 to 0.2 μm . If the $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ layer is excessively thick, the resistance of the film itself influences the entire layer, and if it is excessively thin, the contact resistance cannot be reduced.

In the foregoing description, the p-type $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ layer is used as part of the contact layer, but by changing the gas to the p-type $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$, it is possible to obtain the same effect by forming the p-type GaAs, p-type GaP, p-type $\text{In}_b\text{Ga}_{1-b}\text{As}$ ($0 < b < 1$, where $b=0.2$ for example) or p-type $\text{In}_b\text{Ga}_{1-b}\text{P}$ ($0 < b < 1$, where $b=0.5$ for example) as the contact layer on the side contacting the p-side electrode. In this case, it is possible to obtain the same effect by lowering the inside temperature of the MOCVD device to 500° to 800°C and introducing the gas, in place of the foregoing TMI, or introducing TMI and tertiary butyl arsine (TBA) or tertiary butyl phosphine (TBP).

Afterwards, a protective film such as SiO_2 and Si_3N_4 is provided over the entire surface of the grown layer of a semiconductor, annealing or electron

Example 4

In the light emitting element of the semiconductor of the example, when forming a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound on a substrate such as sapphire, a semiconductor layer in which In, P or As is contained is provided on a semiconductor layer at least contacting a substrate, the strain of such semiconductor layer is relieved so as to restrict occurrence of crystal defects or transition involved in lattice mismatching with a substrate such as sapphire, thereby preventing the progress of crystal defects or transition toward the semiconductor layer which contributes to the light emitting portion.

A semiconductor layer containing In is one of which part of GaN is replaced by In and by forming on the substrate as a semiconductor layer of $\text{In}_c\text{Ga}_{1-c}\text{N}$ ($0 < c < 1$), In becomes heavier than Ga and is moved easily, so that it is possible to form a soft buffer layer with less strain in which coupling between atoms is easily cut. The composition ratio c of In is set to 0 to 1, and preferable to 0.1 to 0.5, and more preferably to approximately 0.1 to 0.3. If the composition ratio of In is excessively large, the difference between the substrate and the lattice constant becomes excessively large, posing excessively large problem of lattice mismatching, and therefore, the effect of relieving the strain by In is now shown if the composition ratio of In is excessively small. In this $\text{In}_c\text{Ga}_{1-c}\text{N}$, the same applies to the case of $\text{In}_d\text{Al}_e\text{Ga}_{1-d-e}\text{N}$ ($0 < d < 1$, $0 < e < 1$, $0 < d+e < 1$) in which part of Ga is replaced further by Al.

And, in a semiconductor layer containing p or As, part of N of GaN is replaced by P or As and formed on a substrate as $\text{Ga}_w\text{P}_{1-w}\text{N}$ ($0 < w < 1$) or $\text{Ga}_v\text{As}_{1-v}\text{N}$ ($0 < v < 1$), because p or As is heavier than N and is moved easily, so that it is possible to form a soft buffer layer with less strain in which coupling between atoms is easily cut. Composition ratio w and v of P and As is set to $0 < w$ and $v \leq 0.2$, preferably to $0 < w$ and $v \leq 0.1$, and more preferably

to approximately $0.02 \leq w$ and $v \leq 0.06$. When the composition ratio of P and As becomes excessively large, lattice mismatching between GaN and N becomes large, and therefore, the effect of relieving the strain is low shown
5 if the composition ratio of P and As is excessively small.

In P and As, both atoms may be contained not only in one side only but may be contained in to form of mixed crystals. In this case, it is preferable that the total composition ratio of P and As is contained in the range of
10 the foregoing w or v . Further, each atom such as In and P, In and As, and In and As may form a mixed crystal respectively. In this case, it is possible to contain in the range of the foregoing c and to contain P and/or As in the range of foregoing w or v .

15 Next, further details will be described in concrete example.

Figs. 10(a) through 10(d) are explanatory drawings of a section of the process of the concrete example of the light emitting element of a
20 semiconductor of the example 4.

First, as shown in Fig. 10(a), to a substrate 1 consisting of sapphire and the like is supplied by the MOCVD method the carrier gas, TMG, NH_3 , and TMI, a low temperature buffer layre 42 consisting of a semiconductor
25 layer of the n-type gallium nitride type compound of $In_cGa_{1-c}N$ ($0 < c < 1$, where $c=0.2$ for example) is formed to approximate thickness of 0.01 to 0.2 μm at low temperature of 400° to $600^\circ C$. Composition ratio of In is set preferably to 0.1 to 0.5, sand more preferably to 0.1 to
30 0.3. If the composition ratio is excessively large, the problem of lattice mismatching results and if excessively small, the effect of relieving the strain is not shown.

Afterwards, in order to form a buffer layer of single crystal, temperature is at 700° to $1200^\circ C$ and the
35 low temperature buffer layer is made into a single crystal layer, and on the surface thereof is grown the high temperature buffer layer 3 consisting of GaN or Al GaN type or InAl GaN type and the like to approximate

thickness of 2 to 5 μm . Afterwards, a clad layer 4 consisting, for example, of the n-type $\text{Al}_{1-k}\text{Ga}_{1-k}\text{N}$ ($0 < k < 1$) and active layer 5 consisting of $\text{In}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{N}$ ($0 < y < 0.2$) is grown to approximate thickness 0.1 to 0.3 μm and 0.05 to 0.1 μm respectively. To form the clad layer, TMG, NH and TMA, and SiH_4 as the dopant are supplied, and TMI is introduced in place of TMA and caused to react.

Further, with the same material gas as the material gas used for forming the n-type clad layer 4, impurity material gas is replaced by SiH_4 , Cp_2Mg or DMZn gas is introduced into a reaction tube as the p-type impurity material gas, so that the p-type $\text{Al}_{1-k}\text{Ga}_{1-k}\text{N}$ ($0 < k < 1$) layer which is the p-type clad layer 6 is caused to grow in vapor phase.

Then, a contact layer (cap layer) 7 consisting, for example, of the p-type GaN layer is grown and formed to 0.2 to 3 μm .

Afterwards, as shown in Fig. 10(c) in the same manner as the example 1, a protective film 10a such as SiO_2 and Si_3N_4 is provided on the entire surface of the grown layer of a semiconductor layer, annealing or electron irradiation is provided for approximately 20 to 60 minutes at 400° to 800°C, thereby activating the p-type clad layer 6 and the contact layer 7.

Then, in order to form an electrode of the n-side after the protective film 10a is removed, resist is applied and patterning provided, a clad layer 4 or buffer layer 3 which are the n-type layer are exposed (refer to Fig. 10(c)) by removing part of each of grown semiconductor layer by etching in the same manner as the example 1, the n-side electrode 9 to be electrically connected to the n-type layer and the p-side electrode 8 to be electrically connected to the p-type contact layer 7 are respectively formed on the surface of a semiconductor layer of the laminated compound by sputtering and the like (refer to Fig. 10(d)), and LED chips are formed by dicing.

In accordance with this example, because a

semiconductor layer of gallium nitride type compound containing In is used for the low temperature buffer layer 42 as the semiconductor layer which contacts a substrate such as sapphire, the semiconductor becomes one which is soft and the coupling thereof between atoms is easily cut, and it is possible to considerably relieve the strain involved in lattice mismatching. The low temperature buffer layer 42 may not be have to be $\text{In}_c\text{Ga}_{1-c}\text{N}$ but the same result was obtained by $\text{In}_d\text{Al}_{1-d}\text{Ga}_{1-d-c}\text{N}$.

With respect to the material gas used for forming the foregoing low temperature buffer layer 42, in place of TMI, tertiary butyl phosphine (TBP) or tertiary butyl arsine (TBA), for example, is introduced, a semiconductor layer of a compound consisting of $\text{GaN}_w\text{P}_{1-w}$ ($0 < w < 1$) or $\text{GaN}_v\text{As}_{1-v}$ ($0 < v < 1$) is formed, and the same structure and manufacturing method were used as in the case of $\text{In}_c\text{Ga}_{1-c}\text{N}$. The growth temperature of the low temperature buffer layer 24 was 400° to 600°C .

As a result, because a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound containing P or As is used for the low temperature buffer layer as a semiconductor layer which contacts a substrate such as sapphire, as in the case of the example 1 in which such semiconductor contained In, it is possible to obtain a soft semiconductor layer with coupling thereof between atoms being easily cut, and to considerably relieve the strain involved in the lattice mismatching.

In each of the foregoing example, examples of LED of double hetero junction were described, but it is the same with a laser diode of pn junction various structures.

In accordance with the light emitting element of the semiconductor of the example 4, because a low temperature buffer layer consisting of a semiconductor containing at least In, P or As is provided as a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound to be formed on the surface of substrate, the semiconductor is soft and the strain is relieved. As a result, occurrence

- of crystal defects and transition in the low temperature buffer layer is restricted, progress of crystal defects or transition toward the semiconductor which contributes to emission of light can also be restricted, thereby
- 5 improving the light emitting characteristic, improving reliability, and extending the life further.

Example 5

- 10 In the light emitting element of the semiconductor of this example 5, a buffer layer which is a semiconductor layer contacting a substrate of a semiconductor layer of gallium nitride type compound containing at least an n-type layer and a p-type layer to be laminated to form a light emitting portion on a
- 15 substrate such as sapphire is composed by a semiconductor in which it is difficult for electric current to flow. In other words, because the lattice constant of the semiconductor layer of gallium nitride type compound and that of the sapphire substrate are different in that the
- 20 former is 4.758\AA and the latter is 3.189\AA , strain due to lattice mismatching occurs in the buffer layer on the substrate, and crystal defects or transition are likely to occur. When electric current flows into the semiconductor where such crystal defects or transition are occurring,
- 25 heat is generated and crystal defects or transition increase in the portion where crystal defects or transition occur. Because the crystal defects or transition occurred in this buffer layer progress toward the semiconductor layer which forms the light emitting
- 30 portion, by preventing electric current from flowing to the buffer layer on the substrate as much as possible, it is possible to restrict the occurrence of crystal defects or transition in the entire semiconductor layer.

- 35 In order to make the buffer layer portion contacting the substrate as a layer where electric current is difficult to flow, it is possible to obtain such layer by making the layer as a high resistance layer or a layer of opposite conduction type by introducing a

semiconductor layer of the upper part of the buffer layer and opposite conduction type dopant when growing a semiconductor layer in vapor phase. For example, because it is necessary to anneal and activate the p-type layer

5 when forming the light emitting element a semiconductor by laminating a semiconductor of gallium type compound, the lower portion which is the substrate side is made into an n-type layer and the surface side is made into a p-type layer, and then are laminated. When growing a

10 semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound in vapor phase, N of the semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound is easily evaporated, so that the n-type layer is obtained without mixing a dopant. Therefore, when forming a buffer layer, by mixing the n-type clad layer to be

15 formed on the buffer layer and the p-type dopant of opposite conduction type, the layer to be originally formed into an n-type layer is neutralized by the p-type dopant and becomes a high resistance layer, and becomes a p-type layer by mixing more p-type dopant. Because the

20 n-side electrode is provided on the surface of the n-type layer of the buffer layer or the clad layer, electric current does not flow to the high resistance layer of the substrate side or to the p-type layer. As a result, electric current does not flow to the buffer layer of the

25 substrate side in particular where crystal defects or transition are likely to occur, so that it is possible to prevent an increase of crystal defects or transition.

When a semiconductor of gallium nitride type compound containing at least either In, P or As is used

30 for the foregoing buffer layer, In is heavier than Ga and p or As is heavier than N, it is preferable that it is easy to relieve the strain because the coupling between atoms is easily cut, and it is further possible to prevent an increase of crystal defects or transition.

35 Next, the manufacturing method of the light emitting element of the semiconductor of the example 5.

First, as shown in Fig. 10(a) of the example 4, on a substrate 1 consisting of sapphire and the like is

supplied by the MOCVD method the carrier gas H_2 together
TMG at the flow rate of 20 to 200 sccm, NH_3 , at the flow
rate 5 to 20 slm, and Cp_2Mg or $DMZn$ at the flow rate of 10
to 1000 sccm so as to grow in vapor phase at 400 to 700°C,
5 and a low temperature buffer layer 42 consisting of GaN
having the specific resistance of approximately 10 to
 10^{18} .cm is grown to approximate thickness of 0.01 to 0.2
 μm .

Then, the temperature is raised to approximately
10 700° to 1200°C to make the foregoing low temperature
buffer layer 42 into single crystal, and the same material
gas as the foregoing gas is continuously supplied, the
dopant gas is changed to SiH_4 and the high temperature
buffer layer 3 consisting of the n-type GaN is formed to
15 approximate thickness of 2 to 5 μm . When growing the high
temperature buffer layer 3, it is possible to obtain the
n-type layer as described above even if the layer is grown
without supplying the dopant gas, it is preferable to
supply the dopant gas in order to sufficiently increase
20 the carrier gas density.

Afterwards, in the same manner as the example
4, semiconductors of the n-type clad layer, active layer,
p-type clad layer, and contact layer are laminated,
annealed, and etched to be formed into the p-side
25 electrode and the n-side electrode, and then made into
chips.

In this example, the flow rate of the p-type
dopant supplied during growth of the low temperature
buffer layer 42 is set to approximately 10 to 100 sccm and
30 the buffer layer is formed as a high resistance layer
having the specific resistance of approximately 1000 to
 10^{18} .cm, but by setting the flow rate of the p-type dopant
to approximately 500 to 1000 sccm and forming the layer as
the p-type layer, the high temperature buffer layer 3
35 thereon is the n-type and the n-side electrode is provided
on the n-type layer, therefore, little electric current
flows to the p-type layer on the insulated substrate, and
it is possible to form a layer where electric current is

In addition, in this example, the entire high temperature buffer layer 3 on the low temperature buffer layer 42 is formed by the example of the n-type layer, but it is also possible to make the lower layer side of the high temperature buffer layer 3 as the high resistance layer or the p-type layer. In this case, by changing only the dopant gas to be supplied while growing a semiconductor layer in vapor phase, it is possible to change the conduction type dopant. Further, the entire of the high temperature buffer layer 3 may be made a high resistance layer or a p-type layer and the n-type clad layer may be made to a thickness to an extent where the series resistance does not pose a problem.

In addition, in this example and LED of double
25 hetero junction is described, the present invention can be
applied to the light emitting element of semiconductor
such as laser diode having LED of pn junction or various
structures.

In accordance with the light emitting element of the semiconductor of the example 5, because the semiconductor layer of gallium nitride type compound (buffer layer) contacting the substrate where crystal defects or transition are likely to occur due to the lattice mismatching is made a layer where electric current is difficult to flow, it is possible to prevent an increase of crystal defects or transition caused by electric current. As a result, it is possible to restrict the occurrence of crystal defects or transition in

the semiconductor layer composing the light emitting portion, and it is possible to obtain the light emitting element of semiconductor having excellent light emitting characteristic.

- 5 Further, crystal defects or transition do not increase during operation due to the influence of electric current, while the reliability is improved and the life is extended as well.

- 10 In each example of the foregoing examples 1 through 5, examples of semiconductor layers of special compositions are described as the semiconductor layer of gallium nitride type compound, but not limiting to the material of the foregoing composition, the semiconductor layer is generally consisted of $Al_pGa_{1-p-q}N$ ($0 \leq p < 1$,
15 $0 < q \leq 1$, $0 < p+q \leq 1$), the ratio of each composition may be selected so that the bond gap energy of the active layer, for example, is smaller than the band gap energy of the clad layer, or the composition ratios p and q may be changed so as to satisfy the band gap energy or the
20 refractive index of each semiconductor layer according to the desired light emitting element of semiconductor. The present invention can be applied in the same manner as to the material in which part or whole of N of the foregoing $Al_pGa_{1-p-q}N$ is replaced by As and/or P .

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A semiconductor light emitting device of
2 double hetero junction comprising:
3 an active layer; and
4 clad layers comprising an n-type layer and a
5 p-type layer, said clad layers sandwiching said active
6 layer, a band gap energy of said clad layers being larger
7 than that of said active layer;
8 wherein said band gap energy of said n-type clad
9 layer is smaller than that of said p-type clad layer.

1 2. The semiconductor light emitting device of
2 Claim 1, wherein said n-type clad layer comprises an
3 n-type $Al_xGa_{1-x}N$ ($0 \leq x \leq 0.5$), said active layer comprises
4 $In_yGa_{1-y}N$ ($0 \leq y \leq 1$), said p-type clad layer comprises
5 p-type $Al_zGa_{1-z}N$ ($0 < z \leq 1$) under a condition of $2x \leq z$.

1 3. The semiconductor light emitting device of
2 Claim 1, wherein a buffer layer is provided between a
3 substrate and one of said p-type clad layer and said
4 n-type clad layer, said buffer layer being made of GaN.

1 4. A semiconductor laser of double hetero
2 junction structure comprising:
3 an active layer;
4 an n-type layer and a p-type layer, sandwiching
5 said active layer, a band gap energy of said n-type layer
6 and said p-type layer being larger than that of said
7 active layer and a refractive index of said n-type layer
8 and said p-type layer being smaller than that of said
9 active layer;
10 wherein said n-type and p-type layers comprises
11 at least two layers, respectively; wherein in said active
12 layer side of said n-type and p-type layers is provided a
13 low refractive index layer formed of a material of small
14 refractive index, in other portion of the electric current
15 path of said n-type layer and p-type layer is provided a

00604097.002700

16 low resistance layer having smaller electric resistance
17 than that of said low refractive index layer.

1 5. The semiconductor laser according to Claim 4,
2 wherein the thickness of said low refractive index layer
3 is 10 to 50 % with respect to the thickness of said n-type
4 layer or p-type layer.

1 6. The semiconductor laser according to Claim 4,
2 wherein the thickness of said low refractive index layer
3 is 0.05 to 0.3 μm .

1 7. The semiconductor laser according to the Claim
2 4, wherein said active layer consists of $\text{Al}_m\text{Ga}_n\text{In}_{1-m-n}\text{N}$
3 ($0 \leq m < 1$, $0 < n < 1$, $0 < m+n < 1$), said low refractive index
4 layer comprising $\text{Al}_r\text{Ga}_s\text{In}_{1-r-s}\text{N}$ ($0 < r < 1$, $0 < s < 1$,
5 $m+n < r+s \leq 1$, $m < r$), and said low resistance layer
6 comprising $\text{Al}_t\text{Ga}_u\text{In}_{1-t-u}\text{N}$ ($0 \leq t < 1$, $0 < u \leq 1$, $0 < t+u \leq 1$,
7 $m \leq t < r$, $m+n < t+u \leq r+s$).

1 8. The semiconductor laser according to Claim 7,
2 wherein $m=0$ in the material composition of said active
3 layer, $r+s=1$ in the material composition of said low
4 refractive index layer, and $t=0$ and $u=1$ in the material
5 composition of said low resistance layer.

1 9. A semiconductor light emitting device
2 comprising;
3 a substrate;
4 gallium nitride type compound semiconductor
5 layers having a light emitting portion, said compound
6 semiconductor layers including at least an n-type layer
7 and p-type layer, said semiconductor layers being stacked
8 on said substrate; and
9 an n-side electrode and a p-side electrode, being
10 connected with said n-type layer and p-type layer,
11 respectively;
12 wherein at least a surface of layer is provided

13 with said p-side electrode is p-type $\text{In}_a\text{Ga}_{1-a}\text{N}$ ($0 < a < 1$).

1 10. The semiconductor light emitting device of
2 Claim 9, wherein the composition ratio a of said In is
3 $0 < a \leq 0.5$.

1 11. A semiconductor light emitting device
2 comprising:
3 a substrate;
4 gallium nitride type compound semiconductor
5 layers having a light emitting portion, said compound
6 semiconductor layers including an n-type layer and a
7 p-type layer, said semiconductor layers being stacked on
8 said substrate;
9 an n-side electrode connected with said n-type
10 layer, and a p-side electrode connected with said p-type
11 layer;
12 wherein at least a surface of said p-type layer
13 provided with p-side electrode is made of p-type GaAs or
14 p-type GaP.

1 12. A semiconductor light emitting device
2 comprising:
3 a substrate;
4 gallium nitride type compound semiconductor
5 layers having a light emitting portion, said compound
6 semiconductor layers including at least an n-type layer
7 and a p-type layer, said compound semiconductor layers
8 being stacked on said substrate;
9 an n-side electrode connected with said n-type
10 layer; and
11 a p-side electrode connected with p-type layer;
12 wherein at least a surface of a p-type layer
13 provided with said p-side electrode is made of p-type
14 $\text{In}_b\text{Ga}_{1-b}\text{As}$ ($0 < b < 1$) or p-type $\text{In}_b\text{Ga}_{1-b}\text{P}$ ($0 < b < 1$).

1 13. A semiconductor light emitting device
2 comprising:

3 a substrate;
4 gallium nitride type compound semiconductor
5 layers having a light emitting portion, said compound
6 semiconductor layers including at least an n-type layer
7 and a p-type layer, said compound semiconductor layers
8 being stacked on said substrate;
9 a buffer layer being interposed between said
10 substrate and said semiconductor layers;
11 wherein at least said substrate side of said
12 buffer layer contains at least one kind of element
13 selected from a group consisting of In, P and As.

1 14. The semiconductor light emitting device
2 according to Claim 13, wherein said buffer layer has a low
3 temperature buffer layer consists of $\text{In}_c\text{Ga}_{1-c}\text{N}$ ($0 < c < 1$)
4 or $\text{In}_d\text{Al}_e\text{Ga}_{1-d-e}\text{N}$ ($0 < d < 1$, $0 < e < 1$, $0 < d+e < 1$).

1 15. The semiconductor light emitting device
2 according to Claim 13, wherein said buffer layer has at
3 least a low temperature buffer layer formed low
4 temperature, said low temperature buffer layer consisting
5 of $\text{GaN}_w\text{P}_{1-w}$ ($0 < w < 1$) or $\text{GaN}_v\text{As}_{1-v}$ ($0 < v < 1$).

1 16. The semiconductor light emitting device
2 according to Claim 13, wherein at least said substrate
3 side of said buffer layer is a semiconductor layer where
4 electric current is difficult to flow.

1 17. The semiconductor light emitting device
2 according to Claim 13, wherein said buffer layer includes
3 at least one kind of element selected from a group
4 consisting of In, P and As.

1 18. The semiconductor light emitting device
2 according to Claim 16, at least substrate side of said
3 buffer layer consists of a semiconductor layer of high
4 resistance.

1 19. The semiconductor light emitting device
2 according to Claim 13, wherein at least said substrate
3 side of said buffer layer is conductive type semiconductor
4 layer which is different from the semiconductor layer of
5 conduction type stacked just over said buffer layer.

1 20. The semiconductor light emitting device
2 according to Claim 13, wherein said buffer layer consists
3 of a p-type low temperature buffer layer formed at low
4 temperature on the surface of said substrate and high
5 temperature buffer layer formed at high temperature on
6 said low temperature buffer layer with at least the
7 surface side is made into an n-type; wherein on said high
8 temperature buffer layer are formed sequentially an n-type
9 clad layer, and active layer, a p-type clad layer, and
10 p-type contact layer in that order; wherein a p-side
11 electrode is formed on said n-type clad layer or on a high
12 temperature buffer layer exposed by etching.

1 21. The semiconductor light emitting device
2 according to Claim 20, wherein said buffer layer consists
3 of GaN; wherein said n-type and p-type clad layers
4 respectively consist of $Al_kGa_{1-k}N$ ($0 < k < 1$); wherein said
5 active layer consists of $Ga_yIn_{1-y}N$ ($0 < y \leq 1$) and wherein
6 said p-type contact layer consists of GaN.

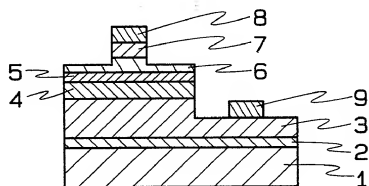
00252227-2609060

Abstract of the Disclosure

A semiconductor light emitting device of double hetero junction comprising an active layer; and clad layers comprising an n-type layer and p-type layer, the clad layers sandwiching the active layer, a band gap energy of the clad layers being larger than that of the active layer; wherein band gap energy of the n-type clad layer is smaller than of the p-type clad layer.

09604097.062700

FIG. 1



09604097.062700

FIG. 2(a)

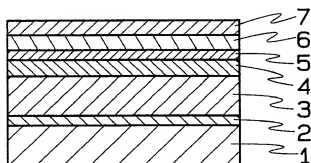


FIG. 2(b)

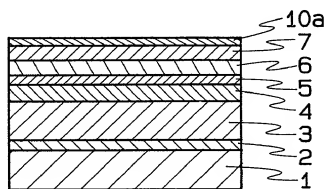


FIG. 2(c)

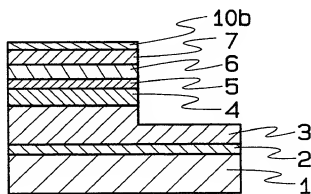


FIG. 3

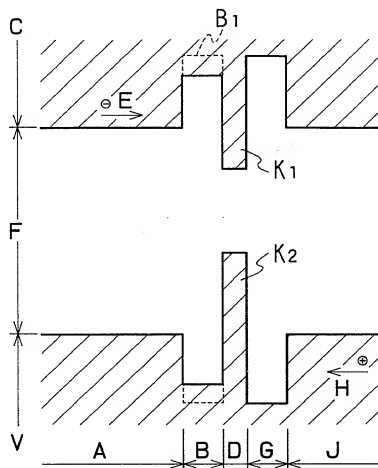


FIG. 4

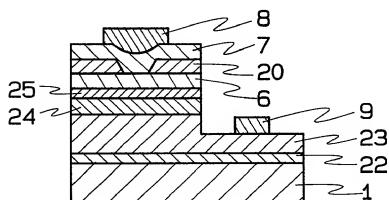


FIG. 5(a)

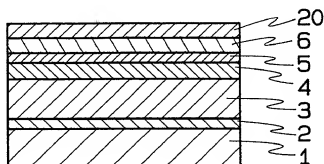


FIG. 5(b)

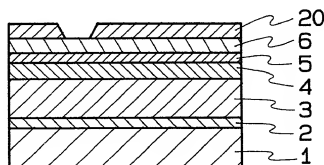


FIG. 5(c)

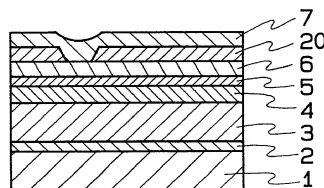


FIG. 6

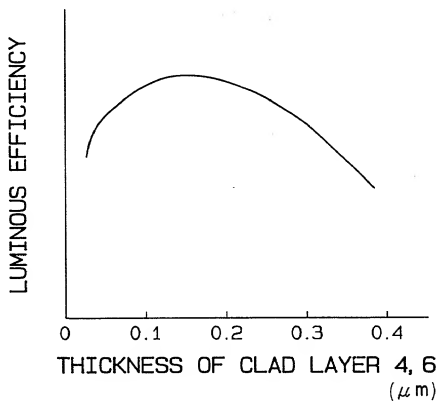


FIG. 7

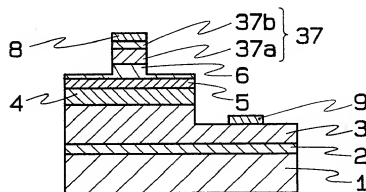


FIG. 8(a)

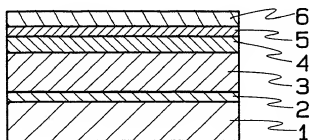


FIG. 8(b)

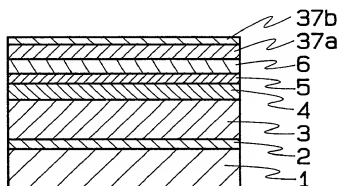


FIG. 8(c)

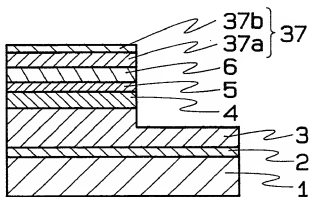


FIG. 9(a)

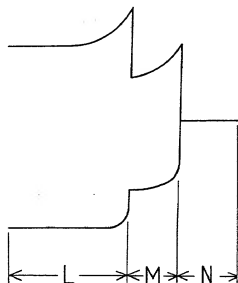


FIG. 9(b)

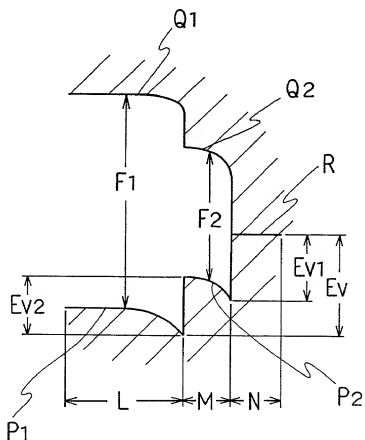


FIG. 10(a)

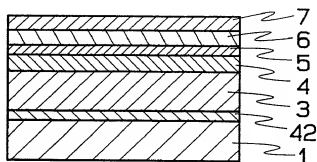


FIG. 10(b)

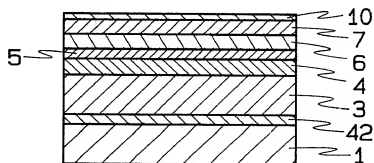


FIG. 10(c)

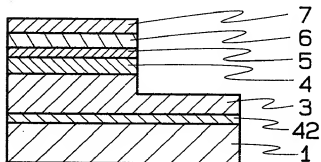


FIG. 10(d)

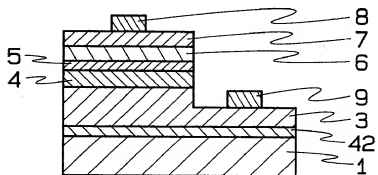


FIG. 11

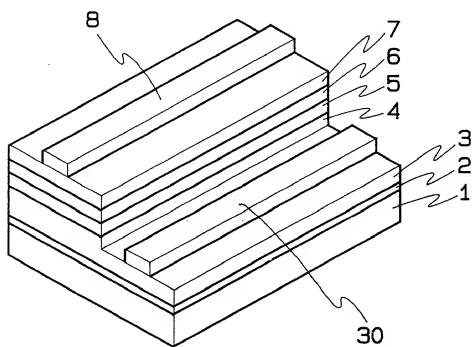
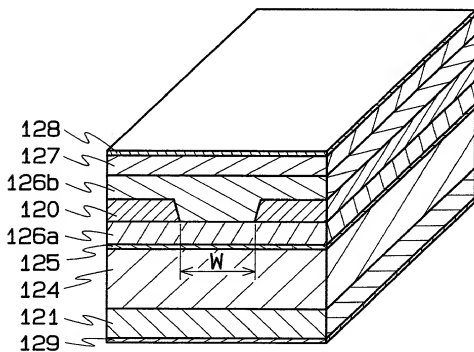


FIG. 12



Declaration For U.S. Patent Application

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled (Insert Title) SEMICONDUCTOR LIGHT EMITTING DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREFOR

the specification of which

(Check one of blocks
1, 2, or 3.
See note A on back of this page)

1. ☒ is attached hereto.
2. ☐ was filed on _____ as
International PCT Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)
3. ☐ was filed on _____ as
U.S. Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed:

			Priority Claimed
(List prior foreign applications. See note B on back of this page)	219892/1994	Japan	14/9/1994
	(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)
	233179/1994	Japan	28/9/1994
	(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)
	233180/1994	Japan	28/9/1994
	(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)
	235013/1994	Japan	29/9/1994
	(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)
	235014/1994	Japan	29/9/1994
	(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)

(See Note C on back of this page)

☐ See attached list for additional prior foreign applications

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(List Prior U.S. Applications)	(Application Serial Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

And I hereby appoint as principal attorneys David T. Nikaïdo, Reg. No. 22, 663; Charles M. Marmelstein, Reg. No. 25,895; George E. Oram, Jr., Reg. No. 27,931; Robert B. Murray, Reg. No. 22,980; Martin S. Postman, Reg. No. 18,570; E. Marcie Emas, Reg. No. 32,131; Michael G. Gilman, Reg. No. 19,114; Douglas H. Goldhush, Reg. No. 33,125; Juan Carlos Marquez, Reg. No. 34,072; Robert L. Waddle, Reg. No. 35,795; Kevin C. Brown, Reg. No. 32,402; Monica F. Chin, Reg. No. 36,105.

Please direct all communications to the following address:

NIKAIDO, MARMLSTEIN, MURRAY & ORAM
Metropolitan Square
655 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Suite 330 - G Street Lobby
Washington, D.C. 20005-5701
(202) 638-5000 Fax: (202) 638-4810

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

(See Note D on back of this page) Full name of sole or first inventor Yukio Shakuda
Inventor's signature Yukio Shakuda 8/9/1995
Residence c/o ROHM CO., LTD., 21, Saiin Mizosaki-cho, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, Japan
Citizenship Japanese
Post Office Address Same as Residence

13604097.062700

In re Patent Application of

Group Art Unit: 2874 (expected)

Examiner: B. Cushwa (expected)

For: SEMICONDUCTOR LIGHT
EMITTING DEVICE AND
MANUFACTURING METHOD
THEREFOR

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Effective immediately, please note that all correspondence for the above-named application should be mailed to the following location:

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
1737 King Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2756

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By:

Ellen Marcie Enas
Registration No. 32,131

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: June 27, 2000